

REMARKS

Claims 6-9 and 11 are pending in this application, of which claims 6-8 are withdrawn from consideration and claims 9, 11 and 12 have been amended. Claims 1-5, 10 and 13 have been canceled. No new claims have been added.

Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner has stated:

It is noted that the instant invention discloses that the strip portions are formed and distributed on the surface of the second ceramic layer, or the strip portions formed on the second ceramic layer is distributed approximately uniformly within the strip portion.

Applicants respectfully disagree. The plurality of strip (particle) portions are formed of a magnetic material approximately uniformly dispersed within said second ceramic layer or approximately uniformly distributed on a surface of said second ceramic layer.

Accordingly, claim 9 has been amended to recite this distinction.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the telephonic interview with the Examiner conducted on August 22, 2006, the term "strip portion" has been changed to "particle," as supported in claim 9, as originally filed.

Page 16, line 2 of the specification discloses that these particle portions may be disc-shaped.

Accordingly, the specification, Abstract and claims have been amended to reflect this change in terminology. Furthermore, in the interview the Examiner indicated that it should be verified that layers 2 and 3 shown in FIG. 2 have different constructions. This should be apparent from the

aforementioned claim amendments. Layer 2 in FIG. 2 is a first ceramic layer recited in claim 9, and includes a dielectric material. On the other hand, layer 3 in FIG. 2 consists of a second ceramic layer recited in claim 9, and includes the first material (dielectric material) and particle portions formed of a magnetic material. Thus, layers 2 and 3 differ in that only layer 3 contains the particle magnetic material 32.

Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,730,183 to Tokuda et al. (hereafter, "**Tokuda et al.**"), in view of **Ushiro** (previously applied).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Tokuda et al. discloses a manufacturing method for a laminated ceramic electronic component including a process in which a green sheet including the inner electrode paste layer and the ceramic paste layer, is provided on a carrier sheet such that the inner electrode paste layer penetrates the green sheet from the top surface to the bottom surface thereof, and a process, in which laminates of the green sheet and the carrier film are adhered by pressing, and thereafter the carrier film is peeled off, are repeated to obtain the ceramic laminate, and the ceramic laminate is fired after pressing in the direction of the thickness to obtain the ceramic sintered body.

Ushiro has been cited for teaching "a plurality of strip portions of magnetic material [27] dispersed within said first material [17 in FIG. 3(c)]."

Neither of the cited references teaches, mentions or suggests particle portions of magnetic material approximately uniformly dispersed within said ceramic layer or approximately uniformly distributed on a surface of said second ceramic portion, as in the present invention.

Accordingly, claim 9 has been amended to clarify this distinction, and the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.


In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 9 and 11, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Substitute Sheet for Abstract
Petition for Extension of Time
Check in the amount of \$120.00